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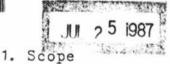
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PROJECT EH-29

ISOCYANATE MONOMER IN PU FOAM

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Regulatory bodies in Europe, particularly the Swedish government have become increasingly concerned with the possibility of isocyanate monomers in foam and polyurethane products.

A preliminary research has been carried out at Monte-dison.

2. Principle

The TDI content in foam is rmined by extraction in dry o-dichlorobenzene (DCB) (not ntaining any impurity with the same cromatographic retention time as TDI) and gascromatographic determination using a flame ionization detector.

Note: increase in sensitivity can be obtained using a specific nitrogen detector.

3. Procedure

About 2g of foam is weighted to an accuracy of 0, 1mg and placed in A (see figure).

10 ml of dry DCB (under molecular sieves) are added and the sample is alternately compressed by plug B (syringe C) for about 10 min.

With a microsyringe, through the septum D, a quantity of solvent is taken and <u>immediately</u> analysed at following conditions:

cromatograph

: C. Erba Fractovap mod. 2300 or equivalent

column

: 2,8 m x 3 mm ID glass, packed with 10% . OV 101 on 80 + 100 mesh chromosorb WAW DMCS

carrier gas

: nitrogen; inlet pressure 1,7 Kg/cm², rate 95 ml/min.

detector

: FID; hydrogen 65 ml/min; air 320 ml/min

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temperature, °C : aetector 200, inj. 200, column 170

sample size : 3 µl

recorder : Leeds & Northrup Speedomax mod. W or

equivalent, 1 mV f.s., 1 sec f.s.,

chart speed 30"/hr

Note: the extracted solution must be immediately analysed because TDI content is not constant probabily by reaction of TDI with other extracted reactive compounds.

Expression of results

Calculation is made by external standard method, using calibration solutions of TDI in dry DCB and multiplying by dilution factor (amount DCB/amount sample).

4. Results

The foam examined was prepared according the following formulation:

polyol Glendion FG 3501 (MW 3500)	100 · p/w
water	4,8 "
Niax A1	0,3 "
Sn octoate	0,15 "
silicon B 2370 (Goldschmidt)	1,5 "
TDI index 1,05	56,44 "

The sample was analysed 1 hr and 24 hrs after the product on and it was kept in ambient air (RH 70%) and in dry atmosphere (under F_0O_5).

Analyses showed that the fresh foam contained about 300 ppm of TDI and the same sample, after 24 hrs, was TDI free (< 5 ppm).

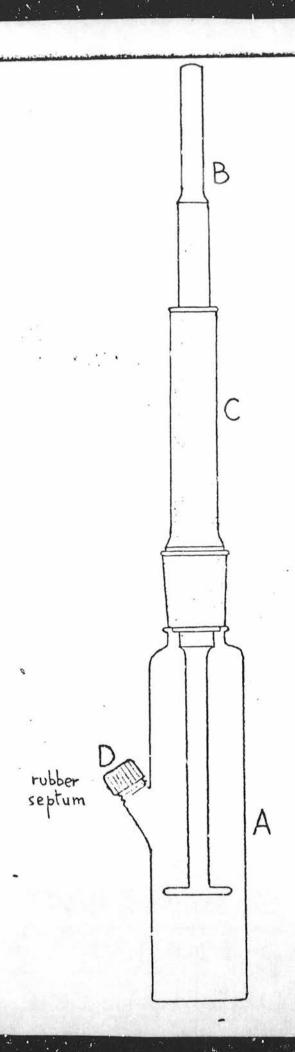
The same result was obtained for both samples: dry or ambient atmosphere. No presence of TDA was observed in the cromatograms.

5. Conclusions

TDI monomer, wich is present at levels of about 300 ppm in fresh foam (1 hr after production), desappears after 24 hrs under all storage conditions (ambient and dry air).

TDI possibly reacts not with moisture but with low molecular reactive compounds present in the foam giving non volatile products.

These results show that use of PU foam is safe respect to presence of TDI residue.



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CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

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